



MONTANA STANDARD

Butte MT 59701

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Disastrous mining operations

Anyone remember the "Stansbury Holding Corporation"?

We all received a letter in 1999 from them addressing themselves as the newest members of the Dillon community. Along with their operation would come a boost to Dillon's economy, more jobs etc. They were attempting to expand their mining operation outside of town. It was a vermiculite mine tainted with asbestos. Our town decided there was not enough proof of the safety of this operation and a full environmental impact statement was required.

Did you know that although the vermiculite mine was put on hold, they continue to be in operation with a garnet mine near the same area? Did you also know that they have never paid the many fines leveled against them by the Department of Environmental Quality? Those fines exceed \$42,000! The landowner is holding the bag for money owed to him, and best

of all folks, they still owe Beaverhead county over \$36,000 in back taxes! How many of us, (older Dillon residents) get away with not paying our taxes?

Responsible mining practices suffer for the actions of outfits like Stansbury Holdings. We need to be responsible for our area. The agencies that are supposed to be minding the store aren't doing it...bigger fish to fry maybe.

On Monday, June 30, at 7p.m. at the Patagonia Outlet, there is going to be an opportunity to learn and hear about the disastrous results in another Montana town due to an irresponsible mining operation. Andrea Peacock has written a book about Libby and tells the heart-breaking story of fellow Montana folks who are suffering the loss of their friends and family, many dying themselves, thanks only to the greed of an irresponsible mining operation called "Grace".

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